(b) China has been modernizing its armed forces since the last two decades, with the thrust on induction of high technology.

(c) Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Crash of fighter aircrafts

†761. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many fighter aircrafts of Indian Air Force have crashed during the last three years and their number is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the aircrafts crashed during the last three years till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many trained pilots of Air Force have been killed in various crashes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some fighter aircrafts have been lost in air crashes.

(b) to (d) The details, along with the causes of accidents and aircrew killed therein, are enclosed.

Statement

Financial year	No. of fighter aircraft accidents	Causes of accidents				No. of fatal cases
		HE(A)	TD	BH	UR/UI	
1999-2000	22	14	05	02	01	09
2000-2001	18	10	06	02	—	10
2001-2002	14	08	05	01	—	06
2002-2003 (Up to 18.7.2002)	09	02	04	01	02	04
TOTAL	**63**	**34**	**20**	**06**	**03**	**29**

HE(A) — Human Error (Aircrew)
TD — Technical Defect
BH — Bird Hit
UR/UI — Unresolved/Under Investigation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.